

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes January 8, 2009

Attendance

Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Jerry Amiot, MACO; Phil Tennis, Freeborn Co.; Dennis Distad, Freeborn Co.; Rick Moore, MSU-M WRC; Jon Bohn, MAWD; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Larry Gunderson, MPCA; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Greg Roiger, MASWCD; Allan Kuseske, MADI, NFCRWD; Dan Wilkens, MADI, RRWMB/SHRWD; Leonard Binstock, ADMC; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Greg Eggers, DNR; Joel Peterson, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts Prior to or During Meeting:

1. DWG – Meeting Agenda for 1-8-09
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 11-24-08
3. DWG – Discussion Topics List 12-23-08
4. DWG – 2008 Consensus Recommendations 12-28-08
5. DWG – Summary of Drainage Records Modernization Challenge Grant applicants and grantees
6. DWG – Summary of LCCMR Phase 2 proposals related to drainage

Introductions and Agenda Overview

All in attendance introduced themselves and Al Kean provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of 11-24-08 Meeting Notes

Extra copies of the subject meeting notes were distributed Al and asked if there were any comments or corrections. No comments or corrections were offered.

Drainage Records Modernization Challenge Grants

Joel Peterson briefly reviewed the status of the grants. Of the 44 applications submitted, 22 received grants. It was suggested that the grant amounts for each of the recipients be posted on the BWSR web site. It was explained that one group application of 4 drainage authorities could only be partially funded at about 30% of what was requested (the rest were fully funded). The high demand for the grants suggests that additional challenge grant funding is needed, as included in the 2008 DWG consensus recommendations.

2008 DWG Consensus Recommendations

Al pointed out that based on discussions at the 11-24-08 meeting and subsequent discussions with BWSR staff, Subd. 1 (e) was modified to not require the petitioner to acquire a public waters work permit, if required, as part of the petition, but rather moves the requirement to obtain permit(s), if required, to Subd. 4, after the engineer's report but before construction.

There was a question about who acquires a public waters work permit, if required. After discussion, it was decided to add the language "or drainage authority" after "petitioner" in Subd. 1(e) and Subd. 4. Al agreed to talk to Kurt Deter and Greg Knopff to verify that this change would have the desired outcome.

Larry G. asked about Subd. 5 and downstream cumulative impacts. Al suggested this concern would be better addressed by 103E.015, which is on the DWG discussion topic list and will be addressed in future DWG meetings.

DWG Discussion Topics:

Topic regarding cost responsibilities for road crossings, 103E.315/103E.525. Al identified an existing cross reference and the DWG had previously discussed adding information previously developed by the Minnesota Viewers Association about this concern in the updated Minnesota Public Drainage Manual.

Therefore, this topic was removed from the list. Jerry Amiot indicated that there still might be some confusion on the responsibility for road crossings. Al agreed to check in with Kent Sulem, MAT.

Culvert Sizing for Runoff Management

Al gave a presentation about culvert sizing for dispersed temporary storage within drainage systems, based on Technical Paper No. 15, prepared by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. Technical Paper 15 presents preliminary guidelines for design of culvert sizing, including rationale, guiding principles and benefits for this approach. Substantial discussion during and after the presentation. This technical paper is available on the Red River Water Management Board website at: <http://www.rrwmb.org/files/FDRW/TP15.pdf>

Controlled Subsurface Drainage Water Management

Leonard Binstock gave a presentation on drainage water management using control structures on subsurface tile systems. This is based on the work of the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition and various research and demonstration project partners in Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio?. The MDA and University of Minnesota are involved with several of these projects in Minnesota. The ADMC had received a major Conservation Innovation Grant through the NRCS for multi-state research and demonstration projects. Substantial discussion during and after the presentation.

Bioreactors on Tile Drainage

Due to time constraints, this presentation by Mark Dittrich was tabled until the next meeting.

LCCMR Phase 2 Projects Update

Al handed out a sheet summarizing drainage-related proposals to the LCCMR and whether they were recommended for funding or not (to the Legislature). Al mentioned that he has spoken with Louis Smith of Smith Partners PLLP about the Minnesota Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation Project that was recommended for funding. Louis has indicated that he plans to coordinate with the DWG regarding this project.

Next Meeting

It was suggested that a February 12 meeting might provide an opportunity for an update regarding the status of Clean Water Amendment funding discussions. Al indicated that there might not be a lot to report at that time, but he would check with BWSR leadership and others to determine whether or not to call a DWG meeting.

Thursday, March 12, 2009 – This date was identified as a good time for the DWG to meet during the legislative session, before the deadline for policy bills. Meeting will be held in St. Paul, location to be determined.